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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/856,944	05/15/97	HOFFMANN	E 4100-77CON

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F3M1/0815

EXAMINER	
FISHER, J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3307	15

DATE MAILED:

08/15/97

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/856,944

Applicant(s)
Eduard Hoffmann et al

Examiner
J R Fisher

Group Art Unit
3307



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 15, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire THREE month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

* **Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous and outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential metal surface including the weld seam and formed by processing the surface and the weld seam so that continuous printing is possible. It is noted that Kobler et al discloses a metal weld seam (Johnson and Fantoni also disclose a metal seam). Applicants have contended that there is no disclosure in Kobler et al (5,488,903) of a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In this regard, Fantoni (4,964,338) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is

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bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches that the formed butt seam for the printing plate produces a homogeneous, continuous and uniform surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2); The seam "...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam produces a "...**smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate**..." (col. 3), and establishes "...a **smooth transition** between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A metal weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). Accordingly, Johnson teaches the processing of the surface so as to achieve a

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homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer surface. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface in a manner and for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder.

* **Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Fromson et al (4,183,788) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Fromson et al (4,183,788), Gerhardt (5,281,511) and Fantoni et al (4,964,338) discloses the conventional fabrication of a printing surface by the application of a photosensitive coat. Fromson et al (4,183,788) further teaches the conventional fabrication of a roughened and anodized surface. It would

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have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903) depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Fromson et al (4,183,788), Gerhardt (5,281,511) and Fantoni et al (4,964,338). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Tittgemeyer (4,913,048). The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) discloses the placement of a conventional water conducting coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a fluid releasing function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903) depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Tittgemeyer (4,913,048). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

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* **Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Tittgemeyer (4,913,048), Kuhn et al (5,468,568) and Morgan (5,093,180). The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Morgan (5,093,180) discloses the placement of a conventional engraved copper coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a printing function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903), depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Morgan (5,093,180). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511) discloses the placement of

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a conventional rubber coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a fluid transfer function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903), depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 1, further in view of each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Lewis (5,289,769) and Berna et al (5,347,927). The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Lewis (5,289,769) and Berna et al (5,347,927) discloses the placement of a conventional flexographic printing form on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a fluid transfer function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903), depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Lewis (5,289,769), and Berna et al (5,347,927). The

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motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view Johnson (1,690,684) and Fantoni (4,964,338). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous and outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 8 has been amended to recite a "uniform" continuous outer surface. Applicants contend that, as amended, the references do not disclose a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In response to applicants' amendment and remarks, Fantoni (4,964,338) is applied for the disclosure of a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, uniform continuous outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches that the formed butt seam for the printing plate produces a homogeneous, uniform continuous surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2);

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The seam "...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam produces a "...**smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate...**" (col. 3), and establishes "...a **smooth transition** between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, uniform continuous outer surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam, i.e., Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). As broadly recited, the configuration of the welded seam before processing, as claimed, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This is especially so in view of the teaching of the same in Johnson (1,690,684) who discloses a conventional welded seam having an outwardly directed crown before processing the surface. The motivation would have involved merely the obvious utilization of conventional welding techniques. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a

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homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface in a manner and for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a uniform continuous outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder.

* **Claims 9, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of the secondary references, as applied to claim 8 above, further in view of Dekumbis et al (5,147,999). Dekumbis et al (5,147,999) discloses conventional welding techniques comprising the use of welding filler materials, targeted gas feeds, and deposit welding. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the weld in Kobler et al (5,488,903) by using conventional welding techniques, as claimed, especially in view of the teaching of the same as disclosed by Dekumbis et al (5,147,999).

* **Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of Fantoni (4,964,338), Johnson (1,690,684), Fromson et al (4,183,788) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal

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carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous and outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 12 has been amended to recite a continuous "uniform" outer surface. Applicants have contended that the references do not disclose a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In response to applicants' amendment and remarks, Fantoni (4,964,338) is applied for the disclosure of a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing a sleeve surface and with a weld seam. In this regard, Fantoni (4,964,338) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches that the formed butt seam for the printing plate results in a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2); the seam "...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam

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produces a "...smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate..." (col. 3), and it establishes "...a smooth transition between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). Accordingly, this would produce a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface. As broadly recited, the configuration of the welded seam before processing the cylinder surface, as claimed, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This is especially so in view of the teaching of the same in Johnson (1,690,684) who discloses a conventional welded seam having an outwardly directed crown before processing the outer sleeve surface. The motivation would have involved merely the obvious utilization of conventional welding techniques. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface in a manner and for the

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reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684) as exemplified above. Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder. The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Fromson et al (4,183,788), Gerhardt (5,281,511) and Fantoni et al (4,964,338) discloses the conventional fabrication of a printing surface by the application of a photosensitive coat. Fromson et al (4,183,788) further teaches the conventional fabrication of a roughened and anodized surface. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903) depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Fromson et al (4,183,788), Gerhardt (5,281,511) and Fantoni et al (4,964,338). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

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* **Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of Fantoni (4,964,338), Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Morgan (5,093,180) and Johnson (1,690,684). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 14 has been amended to recite a continuous "uniform" outer surface. Applicants have contended that, as amended, the references do not disclose a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) is applied for the disclosure of a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In this regard, Fantoni (4,964,338) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches that the formed butt seam for the printing plate produces a continuous uniform outer surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2); the seam

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"...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam produces a "...**smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate...**" (col. 3), and establishes "...a **smooth transition** between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). Accordingly, Johnson (1,690,684) teaches the processing of the sleeve surface so as to obtain a continuous uniform outer surface. As broadly recited, the configuration of the welded seam before processing the surface, as claimed, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This is especially so in view of the teaching of the same in Johnson (1,690,684) who discloses a conventional welded seam having an outwardly directed crown before processing the surface. The motivation would have involved merely the obvious utilization of conventional welding techniques. It would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer circumferential surface in a manner and for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder. The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, Kuhn et al (5,468,568) and Morgan (5,093,180) disclose the placement of a conventional engraved copper coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a gravure printing function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903), depending on the fluid transfer function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Kuhn et al (5,468,568) and

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Morgan (5,093,180). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of Johnson (1,690,684), Fantoni (4,964,338) and each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous and outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 16 has been amended to recite a continuous "uniform" outer surface. Applicants have contended that the references do not disclose a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) is applied for the disclosure of a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In this regard, Fantoni (4,964,338) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches

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that the formed butt seam for the printing plate produces a uniform continuous outer surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2); the seam "...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam produces a "...**smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate**..." (col. 3), and establishes "...a **smooth transition** between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) further discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). Accordingly, Johnson (1,690,684) also teaches a step of processing the surface so as to obtain a continuous uniform outer surface. As broadly recited, the configuration of the welded seam before processing the surface, as claimed, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This is especially so in view of the teaching of the same in Johnson (1,690,684) who teaches that the welded seam has an outwardly

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directed crown prior to processing the surface. The motivation would have involved merely the obvious utilization of conventional welding techniques. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer circumferential surface in a manner and for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684) as exemplified above. Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder. The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511) discloses the placement of a conventional rubber coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a fluid transfer function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et al (5,488,903), depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious

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to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by each of Kuhn et al (5,468,568), Tittgemeyer (4,913,048) and Gerhardt (5,281,511). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.

* **Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Kobler et al (5,488,903) in view of Johnson (1,690,684), Fantoni (4,964,338), Fadner et al (5,207,158), Morgan (5,093,180) and Jenkins (4,963,404). Kobler et al (5,488,903) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam permanently connects together the facing edges of the sheet, and a homogeneous, continuous and outer circumferential surface is formed by processing the surface so that continuous printing is possible. Claim 17 has been amended to recite a continuous "uniform" outer surface. Applicants contend that, as amended, the references do not disclose a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) is applied for the disclosure of a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. In this regard, Fantoni (4,964,338) discloses a metal carrying sleeve for printing comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A butt seam connects together the facing edges of

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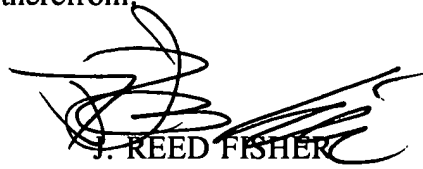
the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Fantoni (4,964,338) clearly teaches that the formed butt seam for the printing plate produces a continuous uniform surface, i.e., "...a **continuous surface** of the printing plate along the butt joint..." (col.2); the seam "...ensures **continuity on the external surface** of the printing plate between those portions of the outer side of the deformed sheet 4 which flank the inlet..." (col. 3); the seam produces a "...**smooth and continuous or external surface of the plate**..." (col. 3), and establishes "...a **smooth transition** between those portions of said external surface which are adjacent said inlet..." (cl. 9). Johnson (1,690,684) further discloses a metal carrying sleeve for dyeing (printing) comprising a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet that is bent to a desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another. A weld seam connects together the facing edges of the sheet to form a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface formed by processing the surface and the weld seam. Johnson (1,690,684) teaches that "...The outer surface of the welding material, as at 13a, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is then preferably finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and if desired, the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder..." (page, col. 1). Thus Johnson (1,690,684) also teaches processing the surface so as to obtain a continuous uniform outer surface. As broadly recited, the configuration of the welded seam, as claimed, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This is

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especially so in view of the teaching of the same in Johnson (1,690,684) who discloses a conventional welded seam having an outwardly directed crown. The motivation would have involved merely the obvious utilization of conventional welding techniques. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process the sleeve surface and the weld seam in Kobler et al (5,488,903) so as to achieve a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer circumferential surface in a manner and for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). The motivation would have involved the desire to achieve a continuous and uniform outer circumferential surface for the reasons as taught by each of Fantoni (4,964,338) and Johnson (1,690,684). Applicants' remarks and claim amendments have been carefully considered and are answered by the application of the references as noted above. Johnson (1,690,684) does teach that the outer surface of the welding material, which protrudes beyond the surface of the sheet metal cylinder 12, is finished off in a known manner to the outer surface of the sheet metal, and that the entire outer surface may be turned or machined to a true cylinder. The particular working surface placed on the carrying sleeve would necessarily depend on the expected function desired to be obtained. For example, each of Fadner et al (5,207,158), Morgan (5,093,180) and Jenkins (4,963,404) discloses the placement of a conventional ceramic coat on the outer surface of a printing roller so as to achieve a fluid transfer function. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional working surface on the roller of Kobler et

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al (5,488,903), depending on the function desired. For example, it would have been obvious to utilize a roller surface in Kobler et al (5,488,903) for the reasons and as taught by Fadner et al (5,207,158) Morgan (5,093,180) and Jenkins (4,963,404). The motivation would have involved merely the obvious selection of conventional roller surfaces so as to obtain the expected and desired results therefrom.


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August 14, 1997

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to J. R. Fisher whose telephone number is 703 308-0525. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The fax phone number for Group 3300 is (703) 308-3590. Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [edgar.burr@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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